

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015WW161
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Name of Service:	Kangakare Childcare Ltd
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Address of Service:	Woodlands, Lamberton, Arklow, Co. Wicklow
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Eircode:	Y14 CX34
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Name of Registered Provider:	Deirdre Ronan
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	11/09/2024
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No of pre-school children:	AM	69	PM	60
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Loughlinstown Health Centre, Loughlinstown Drive, Loughlinstown, Co. Dublin.
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Inspection undertaken by:	M Condon & O Quill
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Title:	Early Years Inspectors
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Authority to Inspect

The Tusla Early Years Inspectorate carries out inspections of Early Years Services under Section 58(J) of the Child Care Act 1991 (as inserted by Section 92 of the Child and Family Agency Act 2013).

Conditions if applicable	Not applicable
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Description of service

This full day care service is in a residential area in Arklow town. The service provides full day-care, part-time day care and a sessional service to pre-school children aged between 0-6 years of age. The service is open from Monday to Friday between 07.00 and 18.00. A school age service is provided. The premises is located in a detached two storey purpose-built centre with five care rooms allocated to care for pre-school children.

Staffing

A total of eighteen adults are employed to care for the pre-school children. On the day of inspection fifteen adults which included one student, provided direct care to the pre-school children. One adult was employed as a chef. The person in charge and the deputy person-in-charge were present and available to give assistance in the rooms as needed.

Methodology

Tusla's Early Years Inspectorate is the independent statutory regulator of early years services in Ireland. The Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016 define the duty of a registered provider to ensure the safety and well-being of children and to comply with these regulations. This Act also gives Tusla the authority to assess compliance with the regulations. The purpose of regulation in relation to early years services is to ensure that the care, safety, and well-being of children attending such services is upheld. Inspections of early years services are planned based on the following:

- Previous inspection history
- Any information received in relation to the service

The findings on inspection are based on:

- Information obtained through examination of documentation
- Direct observation
- Discussion with relevant staff

This inspection was unannounced and focused on the area of governance, health, welfare and development of child and safety. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

Inspection findings are documented in the inspection report which is first issued in draft format to the service with an opportunity to respond to any findings. Where statutory requirements are identified as not being met, the registered provider must demonstrate how they have rectified the non-compliance and will prevent any non-compliance from re occurring. The Corrective Action and Preventive Action plan (CAPA) will be used to inform decisions about compliance with regulatory requirements. Where the registered provider fails to meet the statutory requirements an escalation process may be commenced.

The inspectorate reserves the right to edit responses received for reasons including clarity, completeness and compliance with administrative and legal processes.

The contents of the report are compiled by the inspectorate body.

Acknowledgments

The inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the person in charge, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 9 – Management and recruitment

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that-

- (a) the service has a designated person in charge and a named person who is able to deputise as required,
- (b) at all times during the period when the pre-school service is being carried on, the designated person in charge or the named person referred to in subparagraph (a) is on the premises, and

(2) A registered provider shall ensure that each employee, unpaid worker and contractor is suitable and competent taking into consideration the nature of the needs of children, including by-

- (a) consideration of references from the person's past employers, if any, and in particular the most recent employer, if any,
- (b) consideration of references from reputable sources in the case of a person who has no past employers,
- (c) consideration of the vetting disclosure received from the National Vetting Bureau of the Garda Síochána in accordance with the Act of 2012 in respect of the person, and
- (d) ensuring, insofar as is practicable, that where a person has lived in a state other than the State for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months, he or she provides police vetting from the police authorities in that state.

Compliance Information

(1)(a) There was a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as required.

(b) The named person in charge remained on the premises for the duration of the inspection.

(2) Twenty staff files were reviewed.

(a) & (b) Forty written and verified references were available for twenty adults in the service.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for twenty staff. In relation to one of these disclosures, the service did not adhere to the re-vetting timeframes as outlined in the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years. Please refer to the information outlined under regulation 23 of this report.

(d) Police vetting was available for one adult who had lived outside the state for more than six months as an adult.

(4) All adults employed working directly with pre-school children held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at on the National Qualifications Framework or the equivalent.

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 11 - Staffing levels

(1) Subject to this Regulation, a registered provider shall ensure that there is at all times an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the pre-school service.

(2) Subject to paragraphs (4) and (5), a registered provider of a full day care service or a part-time day care service shall ensure that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 1 of Schedule 6 opposite a particular reference number specified in column (1) of that Part in respect of the age range of the children specified in column (2) thereof at that reference number is satisfied.

(8) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)-

(a) a registered provider of a pre-school service other than a child-minding service or a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that there are at least 2 adults on the premises at all times,

Compliance Information

(1)
The minimum ratio of adult to children was maintained at all times. The person in charge and her deputy were available to provide support to the pre-school rooms when needed during the day.

(2)
The adult/child ratios were maintained throughout the inspection.
On the day of inspection there were sixteen staff members caring for sixty-nine children. This included the person-in-charge and deputy person-in-charge who were available to give support in the rooms as needed.

(8)(a)
There were more than two adults present in the premises throughout the inspection and the staff roster confirmed there are at least two adults present at all times.

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 15 – Record of pre-school child

(1) A registered provider of a pre-school service other than a pre-school service in a drop-in centre or a temporary pre-school service shall ensure that a record in writing is kept in respect of each pre-school child attending the service containing the following particulars:

- (a) the name and date of birth of the child;*
- (b) the date on which the child first attended the service;*
- (c) the date on which the child ceased to attend the service;*
- (d) the name and address of a parent or guardian of the child and a telephone number where that parent or guardian or a relative or friend of the child can be contacted during the hours of operation of the service;*
- (e) authorisation for the collection of the child;*
- (f) details of any illness, disability, allergy or special need of the child, together with all the information relevant to the provision of special care or attention;*
- (g) the name and telephone number of the child's registered medical practitioner;*
- (h) record of immunisations, if any, received by the child;*
- (i) written parental consent for appropriate medical treatment of the child in the event of an emergency.*

(3) A record in writing referred to in paragraph (1) or (2) shall be open to inspection on the premises by-

- (c) an authorised person.*

Compliance Information

(1)(a)-(j)

Eighteen files were examined.

In relation to the files examined, the record required in writing in relation to (a)-(i) above was kept for each child.

The children's files were located in a secure place in the service.

(3)(c)

A record in writing referred to in paragraph (1) (a)-(i) was open to inspection on the premises by the inspectors.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 23 - Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child

A registered provider shall ensure that all reasonable measures are taken to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of a pre-school child attending the service and that the environment of the service is safe.

Compliance Information

General Safety:

The main entrance door and the side entrance door to the service were secure. A visitor's book was available in the hallway on arrival. With the exception of point 1 below, the service met the necessary safety requirements in respect of the indoor and outdoor environments.

Infection Control:

Foot pedal operated bins were provided for the disposal of used tissues. Written cleaning schedules were on display for the room environment and sanitary area which were observed to be maintained in a clean and hygienic condition. Children's soothers were sterilised daily and stored in labelled individual containers. Individual linen was provided for children's cots and sleep mats. Staff confirmed that linen is laundered weekly or as required

Administration of Medication:

Inspectors observed medication being given to two children during the inspection. The staff members followed the service procedure for the safe administration of medication. Medicine was safely stored.

Safe Sleep:

A sleep room with six standard cots was available and used for the younger children attending the baby room. Sleep beds were used by the children in the Fledgelings room while supervised by staff members. In the Toddler room low level beds were available for the children who required sleep. The inspector observed staff checking sleeping children at 10-minute intervals and maintaining a record of the checks. Room temperatures were maintained between 16 and 20°C when children were sleeping.

Fire Safety:

All fire exits were unobstructed.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. In relation to one staff member while Garda vetting was available, this vetting disclosure was not dated within the previous three years in adherence with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice 'EYI-RN12.3 Renewal of Garda Vetting'.

Infection Control:

2. Handwashing following nappy changing was inconsistent. In the Toddler room the inspector observed the staff member changing four children's nappies. None of these children had their hands washed following nappy changing.
3. A dirty mop head was stored in a nappy sac on the floor of the sanitary area in the toddler room.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. Renewed Garda Vetting for staff member was submitted on the day of inspection and a copy of the disclosure emailed to inspector on the 19/09/2024 and also attached. Staff files are audited October each year to ensure compliance. Renewal dates are specific to each staff member- therefor an electronic reminder has been set to remind us of renewal dates.

Infection Control:

2. The toddler Staff member was retrained on hand washing policy
3. The dirty mop head that was stored in a nappy sac on the floor of the sanitary area in the toddler room was removed from the area and brought to laundry room. Staff were reminded to bring dirty mop heads back to laundry room for sanitising as promptly as possible.

Supporting documentation submitted

A copy of the renewed Garda Vetting for the staff member.

Summary Comment

The non-compliances as identified on inspection in relation to Regulation 23 have been addressed.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 25 - First aid

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that a person trained in first aid for children is, at all times, immediately available to the children attending the pre-school service.

(2) A registered provider shall ensure that a suitably equipped first aid box for children-

(a) is safely stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous position on the premises, and

(b) is available to the children attending the pre-school service at all times.

Compliance Information

(1) Three members of staff had a qualification in First Aid Response. On the day of inspection, the three adults trained in First Aid Response were present and immediately available to the pre-school children.

(2)

(a) The first aid box for children was safely stored in an accessible and conspicuous position in the pre-school room.

(b) At all times the first aid box was available to the children attending the pre-school service.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 26 - Fire safety measures

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of-

(a) any fire drill that takes place in the premises, and

(b) the number, type and maintenance record of fire fighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises

(4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire shall be displayed in a conspicuous position in the premises.

Compliance Information

(1)

(a) A record in writing was kept of all fire drills that took place in the premises. The last fire drill was recorded on the 14/08/2024.

(b) Written records were available detailing the number, type and maintenance of fire-fighting equipment and smoke alarms dated 09/2024 and 06/2024 respectively.

(4) Notices were displayed detailing the procedures to be followed in the event of fire in all rooms and hallways in the service.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 27 – Supervision

A registered provider shall ensure that pre-school children attending the service are supervised at all times.

Compliance Information

At all times during the inspection the pre-school children were supervised.